

Title: Interview with Kristi Napoleon

Date: May 7, 2025

Location: 25 West Main Street, Crisfield, MD

Interviewer(s): Paige Cohen and Will Schatz

Interviewee: Kristi Napoleon

Introduction: Kristi Napoleon, an elderly four-year resident in Crisfield with no family or cultural connection to the town, talks about her opinions on how the town treats people. How the town seems to be very segregated, even in mixed churches, how the people seem to cling onto fate and worship to solve their problems. About how she's not impressed with almost anything anyone in the town does, with only a few that seem to actually care. She worked with disabled children and wanted to work for "It Takes A Village" but was never given a response back. She doesn't have intentions to continue living in Crisfield much longer because of the culture.

[Transcription begins]

Paige Cohen (Cohen): Okay, today is Wednesday, May 7th, and it is 7:11 p.m. We are at Kristi's residence which is 25 West Main Street in Crisfield Maryland. My name is Paige.

Will Schatz (Schatz): My name's Will.

Kristi Napoleon (Napoleon): And I am Kristi.

Cohen: All right, let's get started. So first, how long have you lived in Crisfield?

Napoleon: Four years.

Cohen: Four years, and what made you move to Crisfield?

Napoleon: I come from New Jersey outside of Philadelphia, and although I hear the residents here moan about taxes, the housing taxes are so low, I can't believe it. And the home that I bought here, I could never even touch in Jersey. And I used to ride down the Delmarva Peninsula and then down into the Carolinas a lot. And I thought that I would might move to this area when I was older, so that's what got me here.

Cohen: Nice. Do you have any family in the area?

Napoleon: No.

Schatz: What are your most cherished memories of Crisfield?

Napoleon: My what?

Schatz: Most cherished memories?

Napoleon: I'm still not getting that hon.

Cohen: Your most cherished memories.

Napoleon: Oh, okay. I think it's really beautiful here, which is what brought me here. I love the rural area, but my other side loves urban areas and all the cultural things. So to be really honest, I'm not, I don't have any real cherished memories here right now. I'm really considering selling my house in moving.

Cohen: Where are you considering moving to?

Napoleon: Going back to where I have friends and family and cultural activities.

Cohen: I understand that. Well, how do you entertain yourself here in Crisfield?

Napoleon: Well, I- I worked part-time but I just gave my notice to retire. I worked with autistic children on a one-on-one basis in their home, and I also humbly call myself an artist and all my artwork, I recall it, abstract structure, and it all ties in with the environment. This fish is one of those things, and it was displayed at Eugene State Park. Everything in here had gone in the dump. These are plastic bottles, these are LPs, vinyl records. I didn't know any that were good, only worked straight ones. And this is kind of what is said about what I do, that I have always been an environmentalist and I care about it. So it's combining my creative side with some of my strongest beliefs.

Cohen: Well, I'm really glad that we're getting to interview you.

Napoleon: So I was involved in activity art galleries in the area for a while. I'm no longer involved.

Cohen: Why are you not involved anymore?

Napoleon: I find the politics of the area to be very anti-what I believe in. I- I don't belong here.

Cohen: I understand that.

Schatz: What role does the waterfront or the Chesapeake Bay play in recreation and social life in the community?

Napoleon: What does the bay do for my social life? Well, I like to kayak, you know, so that's good. I love the water and the boats and everything. I've never fished in my life, and I'm not against it, but I just have never fished, and I hike around the state park and different areas. Once you live here there's some real back roads that will take you to the other parts of the bay. They're really nice. And I like driving further down the peninsula, as I said. I liked Saxis in Virginia. Have you ever been there?

Cohen: I have not.

Napoleon: You have to go there, okay? There's all wild lands around it and marshes and kind of like this, you're driving about 14 miles down into a peninsula area that used to be a big fishing village like this was, and it's all little houses. Some have been redone. And then there's a really great little restaurant bar there that to me is Key West before it got a lot of people, so if you like that vibe you should go check it out. It's the Tiki Bar in Saxis.

Cohen: The Tiki Bar in Saxis, I'll have to remember that.

Napoleon: It's a really cool place.

Cohen: Now, has the flooding impacted your recreation here?

Napoleon: Impacted my house, as I said earlier before you started recording. I only lived here a month when the flooding was so bad that it took out all the duct parts of the first floor of my heating and air conditioning system. It took about six months for the insurance to go through and for me to get that repaired, and that was a definite major bummer. I was into the winter where I couldn't live on the first floor at all. I would come down like in coats to cook and run back upstairs.

Cohen: Wow. Well, I'm very glad that your house is okay now.

Napoleon: Thank you.

Cohen: Now have you noticed any changes in the land, weather, water, or flooding in Crisfield since you've been here?

Napoleon: Well, since I've only been here four years and the first month I got the flooding, it has flooded since then quite a few times but- and it's come up to the bottom of my front steps, but it's never flooded my basement or anything again. It hasn't been as bad. I have watched sewage bubble up at the end of the road here, and I hear people in town. They argue over whose responsibility it is to clean out the dollies, but they never seem to get cleaned out. There's a lot of them around town and they're filled with trash.

Cohen: Now, does the flooding impact your ability to get around in your car or get food, anything like that?

Napoleon: Well, when it floods like that and they give a warning, I park my car three blocks away on the higher land because I have a little Volkswagen and it would take it out. So I park it at a friend's house. I have been here where, I would say about five or six times, I couldn't go to work because the road was flooded, and it was flooded even bad going out, so I had to call in sick. And another time, I couldn't get to work, but the people I was working for then have a house with special needs kids in Crisfield. So I took that woman's shift and had to wear knee boots and walk down to Lucas further down towards the dock to watch their people that they had nobody there. So it has impacted my employment.

Schatz: Have you, have you had to personally prepare for flooding or severe storms?

Napoleon: Have I prepared for it? Yeah, I now know what to do like I didn't do it in that time. I bring everything off my porch sometimes and take things down, you know, because it's- I'm afraid it's going to flood like that again. And I've had to spend more money to put extra sump pumps in my basement and that shoots water out into my backyard now.

Cohen: Now, has flooding come up into your house since that October 21st?

Napoleon: Never, no.

Schatz: Have you seen the flooding affect the amount of food in the local grocery stores?

Napoleon: I can't say that I have. That doesn't mean it didn't happen, but, no.

Cohen: Now, have there been any other floods other than the 2021 flood that you remember most vividly?

Napoleon: That was the most vivid. It's come up real high since then, but never, it didn't impact my home.

Cohen: Now we talked a little bit about it before the- before the recording, but could you talk about it again?

Napoleon: Oh yes, okay, I only lived here a month when there was a major storm which what I learned, I had been outside and it was very balmy out. It was October 30th, and I thought it was a nice warm wind and everything and it was raining, but it didn't seem to be raining hard and what I learned afterwards from the local people in the news was it was the heavy wind off of the bay at high tide that caused that major flooding. So we do get warnings now. That day, luckily my neighbor, someone who lives here all her life, she did knock on my door and tell me to move my car up to higher land, and since it didn't look that bad then, I did what she told me to do. So she's a

native and I'm lucky I did or I would have lost my car. So that's the worst thing that happened and there was my flood insurance, which I only had for a month. It was \$10,000 worth of damage.

Cohen: Wow. Well, sorry, I lost my train of thought. Are there- have you found that there's been accurate and timely predictions and warnings for these floods?

Napoleon: Yes, they do.

Cohen: That's good.

Schatz: Do you feel that climate change is something people in Crisfield actively discuss and plan for?

Napoleon: They don't believe in it. They're anti-science here. The woman that runs the garden, the community garden up there, which I volunteered the first year I lived here. I was in the flower industry for years, and I've always been an organic gardener, and she called it organic, but they were using all this plastic and pesticides and I said, "Well, that's not organic." And she goes, "Oh, I don't like to talk about that stuff," and she said it on the town page that she doesn't believe in any of the green initiatives. She thinks it's just not serious, I don't know, she doesn't believe in it and I find that to be the case with the majority of people here.

Schatz: Why do you think people are- don't believe in it?

Napoleon: Well, that's a long, complicated, deep question. They're very isolated, have been for generations, and they are extremely pseudo-religious. I'm going to talk because that's what I think they are and so they say the answer is God and all you have to do is pray and we're going to get real political, but it's the truth around here, okay? And apparently Trump told the people on Tangier or Smith Island, I think it was Tangier Island, the first time he was running, and told them outright that, no, your island is not shrinking, and I guarantee you that a global warming is a false thing, and they voted 100% for him. They have Trump boat parades here. And they say that all of that is baloney. I don't know how they got a windmill here. I wasn't here when they put that up, but that seems against everybody here, so I don't know how that occurred.

Cohen: Were you aware of all of this before you moved here?

Napoleon: Well, I looked into the demographics a whole lot. I'm a sociologist, that's why I went to school for. I looked at that and I knew something, something about the flooding. I had no idea how polarized this town was, and it really is, so although it is an integrated town, it's like the 1950s here. Did you give your presentation on Saturday up at 413?

Cohen: We did. We did, yeah.

Napoleon: Did you have all white people in there?

Cohen: We had a mix because we've really been trying to put in an effort to represent all of Crisfield. So we had a mixed, but it was definitely a challenging thing.

Napoleon: Oh yes, it is, because they don't mix. Have you heard them speak about, the first time I heard it said, I was horrified and yet the black community and the white community use the terms all the time that they have the Black Elks and the White Elks. There's two Elks in town, one's on the highway and they all call it the White Elks, and the one back here is Pride Lodge. And when I moved here, I was walking and I saw a pride dog, and I thought, "Wow, they're really progressive down here. I'm amazed," and that's just the name of this road, Black Elks. And two Saturdays ago, I went to a presentation. I'm not sure if you were involved, but they had done a lot of research here, and they were talking about the things that need to be done, and that Crisfield just lost that multi-million-dollar thing, so they were talking about that. The only, there was there was about 40, 50 people there. There was two black people there, the mayor and a woman representing the 4-H. Everybody in the audience was white, and I find that a lot. I just, they have a wonderful project they've been working on called "It Takes A Village," and it's for underprivileged kids that are building, and their multi-million dollar project that the mayor started years ago, there's not a white child in it. They're all black. And the people in town call it the place for the black children. So it's so incredibly, it's just bizarre to me.

Cohen: We've heard a lot of people talking about that Crisfield is a very tight-knit community where neighbors help neighbors and everybody knows each other. Based on what you've said, do you also feel that way?

Napoleon: Okay, the first day I moved in, the woman who lives next to me here was born and raised in Marion, which is, you know, just the next little village up, and her husband grew up on Smith Island. He works in the prison as a guard; that is a big employer for the area. And she came over as friendly as you can imagine and wanted to give me dinner, brought a fan, because she knew there wasn't air conditioning here yet. Wanted to come in, see the place. She was like very nice that way. Asked me to church, her church, and I thanked her for inviting me and said I probably wouldn't come, but I really appreciate it. And numerous times in the next couple weeks, she talked to me about Jesus and God and was I saved and I said all of that was personal, but she promoted her Christianity. The people that came to put in my HVAC system, the man had a Hispanic family with him and these people, those people worked like you wouldn't believe. They crawled under my house in your crawl space, got dirty and muddy doing this, and I noticed they had a little five-year-old girl with them, and they had her sitting on the lawn with things and I'm like, "Oh, she can come on my porch!" I was doing things. I gave her these toys that had been left in the attic. She was speaking Spanish to me, I was speaking English to her, and we were going back and forth talking. Delightful child. When they all left, that neighbor came over and said something about the illegal people that were here, and I said, "Well, how do you know

that?" and she said something about the child, "Oh, and they brought their child." I said, "Well, they probably don't make a lot of money and aren't you glad that they worked? And that was a delightful child." And I said, you know, "Jesus loves all the little children of the world, red and yellow, black and white. They are precious in his sight," and she went, "Okay," and walked away. She didn't talk to me for about a month. And her husband always says hi. And she talks to me now and says hello, but I never invite her in or anything, and she gossips a lot. "Oh, that person does drugs. We don't like that. Don't go to church." Things like that, and I want to get my hair cut, I tried two different hair people here. And they both gossip happened in there, which everybody talks; they didn't know me though, and said some really prejudicial things about people, and I was just shocked, really shocked.

Cohen: That's- that's very crazy. I, getting back to the- the flooding and the storms you were talking about. No, I'm glad that we- we talked about that because I- I wanted to hear.

Schatz: Yeah, this is the first time we've heard people say stuff about like that.

Cohen: Well, we've heard- we've heard some things. It's been very different from our white participants. It's been a lot of everyone helps everyone. And then from our black participants, they have talked a lot about the segregation and the opinions of a lot the people living here.

Napoleon: I'm surprised they elected a black mayor, but what I think happened was a lot of people didn't go out to vote, not realizing she knows how to be an activist and get the entire black vote out, and she got elected. I'm curious to see if she stays in office. And when I said it runs both ways, when I first moved here, that place, "It Take A Village," that she started, had an ad in for someone to work there with their high school students that wanted to go to college. I sent them an application. I have a degree in sociology with a minor in childhood development. They called me. I have background of, I was a foster parent and raised children of all different races and cultures. And they talked to me for an hour, the mayor talked to me for an hour on the phone and said, "Oh, you have excellent credentials, blah, blah blah, blah, and we will make our decision by the end of the week and get back to you." Never called me, never sent me a message, so two weeks later, I sent her a follow-up. She never answered that. And then two more times in the next nine months, they had the same job offer, whoever they gave it to, didn't keep it, and I sent another in for it, they were saying, "Hey, you passed me up the first time, I never heard from you about it." And she didn't answer. So when she was finally introduced to me, I'm looking at her and my friend said, "This is Kristi Napoleon, do you know her?" And I saw her face go like that. And she goes, "Oh, no," and I said, "Oh, you don't remember speaking to me for over an hour when I applied for a job at 'It Takes A Village'?" And she hadn't been [inaudible] a lot, so I was told by some other black people in town that she would have never hired a white woman to work there.

Cohen: So is this reflective of your opinions of the mayor? Do you like the mayor? Do you not?

Napoleon: I have mixed, well, I have a personal real bad experience with her that I just told you. I think that she's done some good things. She seems to go after and pursue things. I also, as an immersion that was just brought up in a different time and place than here, the separation of church and state is really important. They do- they do a prayer at their town meeting which is allowed by law if it's non-sectarian, but she always mentions Jesus. Last week, and they posted it, she had a prayer revival on public property in front of town hall with all these people praising Jesus and everything, and that's how Crisfield will get better. I- I don't, I don't like that.

Schatz: Yeah, I grew up in a place with very similar things.

Napoleon: Oh, really? Where'd you grow up?

Schatz: Chesapeake Beach. It's before I lived there was like a lot of connection to the church.

Napoleon: Okay, and I have- I have found that there's wonderful people that go to church. I mean, I am going to church, I'm not into organized religion, but when you push it, and it becomes the answer to flooding, to everything, is we just have to pray, or that's how the kids won't get shot, if we pray, you know? I'm definitely in the wrong cultural place for me.

Cohen: Yeah, it can get really challenging. Have you participated in any events, any community events surrounding flooding?

Napoleon: Well, I went to the one that I told you about just last week. Nobody's asked to interview me before. I have gone to, and I think BEACON is who is doing this, what's the gentleman's name? There's a professor that, he's been working with Crisfield for a while, I think.

Cohen: Is his name John Hickman?

Napoleon: I'm not sure.

Cohen: Or Mike Lewis?

Napoleon: I can't remember. He led the same last Saturday, but a year ago, he led a three-part for three weeks meeting at night. What does Crisfield want, what will improve it, how can communications go up? He led all that, and I went there and participated in that, but I didn't see any changes come from it.

Cohen: Are there any initiatives that are exciting you or concerning you regarding Crisfield's government, whether it's city or state or county?

Napoleon: Well, besides the issue, I'm very concerned, and I have no children, although, but I was on a board of education in New Jersey, is that they are banning books left and right in Somerset County, and now the nearest thing in the paper was that, for budget reasons, they

wanted to get rid of the librarians. They call them a media specialist, maybe hoping people won't know it's a librarian, but I said to one of the people in town, one of my friends was a middle school librarian, and I told her that they're trying to ban all these books here, and there's all these people in the town backing it. She said in her school, if there was a question about any of the books, they put it behind the counter. The librarian had it, and you just had to have your mom or dad sign for it. So then the book was available. A parent could say no, but the school kept that open policy on books, which is what I think education is about.

Schatz: Do you know anyone that had to move because of the flooding?

Napoleon: Not because of the flooding. I've had two different people that I was friends with whom I met here, they also had not been from here, and they left for all the reasons that I am probably going to leave.

Cohen: Now, you said that you work with children or worked with children here in Crisfield. Do you believe that they're probably going to stay or leave?

Napoleon: Okay, I work with autistic children. I only work with one in Crisfield. They're all over the Tri-County area. I go to Snow Hill and Salisbury and things. Do I think the child that I work with, if their family's going to leave? No.

Cohen: What I was more referring to is, the children of Crisfield. Do you think that they are likely to stay here in Crisfield or leave?

Napoleon: Well, I think the trend has been, from what I understand, that they're leaving. The population is going down because there isn't employment here, and they can't seem to get together on what would bring people here. Some people want to make it a destination place and part of those things are in place and many of the people that have always lived here do not want that. They want, they, they, have you looked at, if you're from the hood in Crisfield, I think it's called, okay, that's their page and they go back and forth and I listen to them and what they want is more fast food, but they don't understand that a place like that needs a certain population and a good amount of people. So they don't get that, they don't want to put money out or people have talked about water parks, that we go with this different thing and they seem to be anti-anything like that. So I guess what they would need to keep people here is more manufacturing-type jobs. If the kids want to stay for that, who knows, you know. There's so much more for your younger generation that they get to see the outside world and say, maybe I want to go somewhere else.

Schatz: Do you see yourself sticking around Crisfield?

Napoleon: Staying in Crisfield? Well, see, I'm up in the air of what to do now. I've been looking into AirBnB where I can rent out rooms here or traveling nurses. Because there's things that I love here that I wouldn't mind coming and staying sometimes. And like I said, I have a studio

upstairs, and I use that. I have friends that have come to visit here and we do different things, but I- I don't want to stay here as a full-time resident, no.

Cohen: Now, has the local economy, particularly industries like fishing, crabbing, tourism, how have those changed during the time that you've been here?

Napoleon: That I've been here? Not that I know. The big draw that I see is the boats that go out with music. I haven't joined on one yet. From what I understand, they have a big like seafood feast that's, you know, included and then they go out on a two hour, out into the bay or something. And they have hip-hop, country, oldies, they've changed the theme of it and that looks like it's brought a lot of people. I've heard people complaining about that. A friend of mine started the Jazz Festival that was only on for two years. I heard it's not coming back, and that I saw that division again, and they had a Blue Grass festival which is not coming back. That went on for three years, and I had friends who came out of town for that, and I- I don't know what now. A new group in town called the High Tide and they bought a place right on the dock there, but they're a private club that cost \$500 a year to join, and yet they don't have a liquor license, so I'm not getting what they're about, but you can go there and have a party there and they're putting on a festival, the Tangier Festival, in two weeks. That is \$70 a ticket or \$75 a ticket. Yeah, the other two festivals were \$35 and \$40 and didn't get a giant crab, and I'm not into country music, that's what they're highlighting, but I didn't see anybody that was a big name and the people that go under High Tides have never divulged who they are. I have no idea who those people are, so I wish them luck, but I'm curious to see how they make out with this.

Cohen: So there's the separation again.

Napoleon: Oh yeah, somebody asked me, people, I've met a lot of different people when I was active in the two art things and they seem to think I have money in my bank. There's a lot of people with money that are in the condominium there, and they asked me if I wanted to join, and I'm like, "Well, what is it?" "Well, you can hold things there, it's \$500." I'm like, "It's \$500 to join?" And they said, "Well we have to keep the riffraff out," which I thought was a clue for not having any black people in.

Cohen: Yeah, that's what I- what I thought when you said that too.

Schatz: Do you have opinions on how the city council and state are handling flooding in Crisfield?

Napoleon: I'm trying to think of the woman's name. She's a sweetheart that- she wrote all the grants for town- the town. And now she's still involved, but she's not an employee here. I feel that she was a phenomenal grant writer and she got different things in. And that big one that we just lost, that was her doing. So was the mayor responsible for that? I don't know. I can't say yes or no, because I'm not in on their meetings and I didn't get a job, so I don't know.

Cohen: Now, are you hopeful for the future of Crisfield?

Napoleon: Sure, maybe I should sell my house for more money [inaudible]. No, no. When I came here, I thought, "Oh, this is really pretty and I like rural things. I can get this house." I could never have bought this house in New Jersey where I'm from. The real estate here is really cheap. I've seen it go up. I know it's not a good time to sell my house now. I wish people well, of course.

Cohen: What do you think it's going to look like in 20 years down the road?

Napoleon: I wonder what might be washed away. Is it the right thing to keep building up? I don't know. That's my issue if you read that book. That reporter's, this book, the guy who wrote it is a journalist, Earl Swift. He's a journalist I believe with either the Washington Post, anyway, he's a longtime journalist and his way of reporting is to be a participant observer, and he moved to Tangier Island and live here for a year to write that book and, you know, also talk to the Army Corps of Engineers and everything, and what you would need to save those islands is astronomical. And is it the right way to spend money? The one argument that I see is it could be a cultural center where it teaches a past way of life that these robbers live there, but I don't know. I don't know if the Chesapeake Bay is going to produce what it always did enough to make a living. I don't know those answers. But his look at it and his take on it is really good. And Crisfield is mentioned in there, as well as Saxis, that I told you about. It's the shore line showing. Can you find it? I don't know.

Cohen: And just for the recording, the book that Kristi is talking about is *Chesapeake Requiem: A Year with the Watermen of Vanishing Tangier Island*, by Earl Swift.

Schatz: Would you recommend Crisfield as a place to live?

Napoleon: Let's see if I recommend what?

Schatz: Crisfield as a place to live.

Napoleon: No.

Cohen: Straightforward. Now, the last question is, if you have any, what wisdom would you share for future generations? Big question.

Napoleon: Here?

Cohen: Here, yeah, you take that however, however you see fit.

Napoleon: Well, for future generations, they have, that's why I'm so concerned about the school system and the banning of books and everything. I don't feel that they are preparing their

children for the future, and it's very scary here in that. I just hear them bad-mouth kids, I see that on the site for the channel a lot, and people that, you know, when I was young, I got beat, and they don't beat their kids enough, and it just horrifies me because I worked with abused children and I can't stand to hear how they talk. They do it in the name of God, which is even more horrible for me, so I got lost on a tangent there, maybe.

Cohen: That's alright. I asked if you had any wisdom for future generations.

Napoleon: I never know the answer to that no matter where I live. Like people ask you, do you regret anything, or did you change anything when you were young? I wouldn't change a single thing in my life because everything bad and good is a learning experience and got me where I am, so why waste time saying, "Oh I should have done this or I wish I'd done that." I don't live that way.

Cohen: Well, thank you. Any last thoughts before we finish the recording?

Napoleon: I wish you luck, and I'd like to know what you have found the overall feeling here toward environmentalism.

Cohen: Well, it's been a lot of what you were saying where climate change is not really something that is believed in, it is not a popular topic, but what people do talk about is erosion and things are sinking and the flooding is getting worse, so they say all of the symptoms of climate change without saying climate change. That's what we've noticed.

Napoleon: Yes. Yeah.

Cohen: So that's kind of a way we've been navigating that is asking about all of the symptoms instead of talking about climate change, because when we ask about climate change, all we hear is that's not something we discuss here or we don't believe that or that's not a word that people like or things like that.

Napoleon: Okay.

Cohen: Yeah, that's- that's what we've gotten but the people of Crisfield, they really do care about, you know, the- the future of their community and even though there's a lot of doubts, people are still overall hopeful. They're critical, but they're hopeful.

Napoleon: Well, maybe the hope possibly to come from their religion that they're very big on here. And I have found this in different areas of work, and maybe it's a prejudice on my part, but I have found that small black churches are very active and very real, helping people and doing things for people. And I have seen that here too. There's like two different small churches that I worked for a while helping give out food and their food banks. And those people don't blow their own horn or preach to you, but I see them acting in a way that if you call yourself a Christian, you should be acting that way.

Cohen: What churches are these?

Napoleon: It's out on the corner there. Did you by chance meet Emanuel?

Cohen: Yeah.

Napoleon: His church.

Cohen: Shiloh is that?

Napoleon: Yes.

Cohen: Yeah, we interviewed a ton of people from that church.

Napoleon: Okay.

Cohen: And they were all very lovely.

Napoleon: Yes. They're really good people. I think that he probably backs what you think and do.

Cohen: We actually interviewed him.

Napoleon: Okay, yeah, I think that he bites his tongue a lot so he, you know, but I think he's a good man. I do.

Cohen: I think around here, you do have to bite your tongue a little bit.

Napoleon: Right, right, I think he's been here as long as I have. And then there's the other little one on the corner there. And there's a woman named Vanessa there. By chance, did you meet her at all?

Cohen: We did interview someone named Vanessa. I don't-

Napoleon: Is she probably in her 60s or so?

Cohen: I don't think I was the one interviewing her, but I- I will look back in our records.

Napoleon: She is a really- is really smart and really activist, and I met her through the food bank when we were giving food out. Both of those churches were very open. I worked briefly for the Health Department when I was trying to find a job down here with kids before I could do that, and we did Narcan training. Okay, they were all into it, and Emanuel got a whole bunch of people two different times, and then the white shirts right here. And they are, they're segregated, their congregations are segregated. They said that- that something about that- that would encourage people knowing that somebody could help them, and it would keep them on drugs longer.

Cohen: I don't know about that.

Napoleon: But there was a big drug problem here in town, so a woman in her 30s or so ODed across the street about a year and a half ago.

Cohen: Say that one more time.

Napoleon: A woman, I would say she's in- she was in her thirties and she lived across the street. She ODeD.

Cohen: She ODeD. Wow. We've heard about the- the opioid crisis here in Crisfield, and it's been a lot of the black interviewees that have been talking about it and not the white interviewees.

Napoleon: Well, I happened to know a woman that I also met at the house apartment. I worked with her for a while, I really liked her. She's a white woman and her son's about 32, 33. And he's an addict and she said he was an electrician, had an accident and, I forget, oh no, he had cancer in his bone, whatever it was. They gave him Oxytocin and he got addicted, and that's a real thing that people aren't talking about, you know, that the pharmaceutical companies push stuff like that. And he's addicted now and doesn't work because, you know, he's all messed up and she said people don't want to talk about it, you know. And so, I do know and this one family I worked with their grandchild. Her son is a drug addict, and she's been open and talked to me about that.

Cohen: That's really sad. I'm sorry to hear that.

Napoleon: Yeah, yeah. And you know if you can have compassion and try to work with them but if you just, you know, there's a lot of judgment from- I feel that the judgmental part is definitely the white people. She like said that when that girl ODeD, she goes, "Oh well, he, you know, her boyfriend, he's a druggie, and who knows if she was really his girlfriend?" I thought, "Wait, you're the one that asked me to go to church." You know, like, I just don't get it. I don't. So, there's a lot of that here.

Cohen: Well, we're going to go ahead and end that recording here. Thank you very much.

Napoleon: You're welcome.

[Transcript ends]